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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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GOVERNMENT WARNS AGAINST SUMMER FAMINE;
WHEAT HARVEST BRINGS SOME RELIEF

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DIRECTS FAMINE CONTROL -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao,
21 May 50

Peking, 19 May (Hsin-hua) -- The Ministry of Interior of the Central People's government has directed the various provincial governments not to adopt a lax and indifferent attitude toward the prospects of summer famine, in view of the famine this past spring; and to prevent such a calamity by preparing to lead the people in the fight against a summer food shortage. The directive pointed out that preparations must be made to cope with a summer famine in those areas where the soil is so poor that the amount of wheat planted is small or the yield low.

Cadres from all government levels shall continue to visit the agricultural towns, assist the farmers in making definite plans, organize agricultural production to overcome famine, and devise methods to stimulate mutual assistance and to provide loans. Before the wheat is harvested, cadres shall keep the farmers from eating ch'ing (unripened wheat); after the harvest, they shall exhort the farmers to conserve by eating mixtures of unpolished grains with substitute foods. They shall mobilize the farming population to plant quantities of vegetables and other foods which mature early.

DISCUSSES CENTRAL AND SOUTH CHINA RELIEF MEASURES -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao,
21 May 50

Hankow, 20 May (Hsin-hua) -- The spring famine in the Central and South China Regional District has been brought to a standstill, thanks to the large quantities of food distributed on loan from the people's government and the organization of welfare and production activities among the stricken people. With the wheat harvest almost finished, the famine victims in the various districts now have complete faith that they will emerge safely from the spring famine.

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During the spring famine period of March and April 1950, the Central and South China Regional District People's government loaned 890 million catties of food and 310 million yuan to help the suffering people produce enough to carry them through the calamity period. At the same time, many cadres were sent to the stricken areas from all levels of the people's government to look into the loan situation and to organize the famine victims in a movement to help themselves by increasing production.

At present, 5 million stricken persons in all the districts have obtained from 2 to 5 months' provisions by participating in secondary production and in river-control operations. More than 500,000 victims, from the 11 hsien bordering Tung-t'ing Hu in Hunan Province and the special district of Mien-yang in Hupeh, are engaged in repairing embankments. Their wages, in provisions, should solve the livelihood problems of more than 1,200,000 persons for 2 to 4 months. There are also more than 1,200,000 persons in Honan who are making their living by repairing embankments and dredging.

To facilitate the marketing of secondary products, the Trade Office of the Hunan Provincial People's government has distributed 10 billion yuan to purchase large lots of local products. The supply and marketing cooperative in Chu-ho Chen, Chien-li Hsien, Hupeh Province, has bought textiles from the stricken area and exchanged them for food which can adequately feed the famine victims in nine villages for 5 months. Agencies and military units in the Central and South China Regional District have helped to relieve the situation by conserving their food and sending large quantities to the famine sufferers. Through these efforts, the spring famine in this district was brought to a standstill toward the end of April.

At present, the wheat is ready for harvesting throughout the district. The Central and South China Military and Political Council is eager to aid those people who are on the point of starvation and intends to release to them, in the beginning of May, the 100 million catties of food distributed by the Central People's government.

EVACUEES SETTLE IN NORTHEAST -- Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 22 May 50

Peiping, 21 May (Hsin-hua) -- The 5,800 calamity-stricken inhabitants of Liang-shan Hsien in Pingyuan Province who were recently evacuated to the Northeast to engage in land reclamation are reported to be completely settled. Of this number, about 4,700 were sent to the four hsien of Shang-chih, Fang-cheng, Wu-ch'ang, and P'an-yuan in Sungkiang Province, while the remaining 1,100 were sent to the three hsien of Ch'ing-an, K'o-shan, and I-an in Heilungkiang.

The Northeast People's government recently granted these settlers land for reclamation and 1,250 catties of food for the next 5 months. Plans are under way to extend construction loans equivalent to about 1,000 catties of food per family to help in building homes. In addition, seeds and farming equipment are also to be loaned to the settlers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INDUSTRIES SAVE LIVES -- Dairen Lu-ta Jen-min Jih-pao, 18 Apr 50

Dairen -- By engaging in supplementary industries many farmers' families have been enabled to survive the famine conditions prevalent in the Northeast during the past winter.

In Ta-lien Hsien, some 13,450 persons have augmented their incomes, by 147,995,460 yuan, through quarrying stone, fishing, basket-weaving, hauling, gathering and selling grass and wood fuel, etc. With the price of corn at 30 yuan per catty, this income is equivalent to 12,330 piculs of corn and is 47.66 percent greater than the estimates adopted in the conference of people's delegates.

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